

### REMARKS

Reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Final Office Action mailed June 18, 2007, is respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to require that the internal carotid artery is not blocked downstream of the lesion. Support for these amendments can be found in the original application, for example at Figs. 6B-7F and in paragraphs [0047]-[0048]. Therefore, these amendments are made without introducing new matter. Claims 1, 3-11, and 13-20 remain pending.

#### Art Rejections

Claims 1, 3-11, and 13-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Zadno-Azizi (WO 98/38930). The Examiner has taken the position that Fig. 18 and the associated text (see page 13, line 30 - page 14, line 6) describe all the elements of the claim and that aspiration performed through the main catheter (406) reverses blood flow in the internal carotid artery.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 11 to require that blood flow in the internal carotid artery is reversed “*without blocking the internal carotid artery downstream of the lesion.*” As seen in Fig. 18, Zadno-Azizi requires an additional expandable member (numeral 422) to occlude the internal carotid artery (numeral 400) past the site of the occlusion. (See, Pg. 13, Ln. 8)

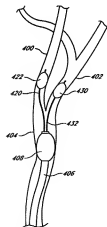


FIG. 18

The additional expandable member (422) is used to create a working area surrounding the occlusion to initially contain emboli and particles. (See, Pg. 13, Lns. 14-15; Pg. 14, Ln. 7) Thus, Zadno-Azizi teaches away from a method wherein "blood flow in the internal carotid artery is reversed to pass over the lesion and toward the common carotid artery *without blocking the internal carotid artery downstream of the lesion*" as required by amended Claims 1 and 11.

Therefore, amended claims 1 and 11 are patentably distinct from the cited reference. Claims 3-10 and 13-20 depend from claims 1 and 11, respectively, and are patentably distinct for the same reasons. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and reconsideration of the claims as amended.

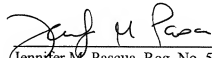
### CONCLUSION

Favorable action on the merits of the claims is therefore earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, please contact Applicant's undersigned representative at (949) 760-9600. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-2862.

Respectfully submitted,  
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